



U.S. NRC
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

I/43

Meeting with BLM
Regarding Uranium Recovery Applications
and Agency Environmental Review Processes

June 24, 2009

Purposes of Meeting

- Increase level of understanding of each agency with respect to jurisdiction/authority and environmental review processes
- Identify overlaps in each agency's reviews
- Establish better communication between agencies with respect to review schedules and issues identified during review

Agenda

- NRC authority & review process
- Status of uranium recovery (UR) applications, draft MOU with BLM
- BLM authority & review process
- Open discussion

NRC Roles & Responsibilities

- NRC is an independent agency
- Mission: protect public health and safety and environment, promote common defense and security
- Has responsibility along with Agreement States for licensing commercial use of nuclear materials
- Openness and soliciting comments on our actions is one of our core values

NRC's Licensing Review Process

- Licensing application submitted for review
- Review conducted in two steps:
 - Acceptance review
 - Detailed review
- Detailed review composed of two parts:
 - Site-specific safety review
 - Site-specific environmental review

NRC and NEPA

- NRC's regulations to implement NEPA requirements are in 10 CFR Part 51
- Application for new license, renewal, or amendment initiates NEPA review process
- NRC is not proponent of the action
 - Proposed action - what the applicant/licensee is seeking to do
 - Federal action – NRC approval/denial of application for new license, renewal, or amendment

Types of UR NEPA Documents

- New ISL applications – Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEISs) tiered from the ISL Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
- License renewals, expansions and amendments – Environmental Assessments (EAs)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- Conventional milling/heap leach applications – stand-alone EISs



Sources of Information for Site-Specific Environmental Review

- Applicant's environmental report
- Other relevant information/data
- ISL GEIS
 - Evaluate site-specific information to determine if applicant's proposed action and site characteristics are within the bounds of the GEIS
 - Determine which sections to be incorporated by reference into site-specific review and which sections need further analysis

Example Schedule

| EA | SEIS | EIS | Milestone |
|------|------|-----|---|
| -90 | -90 | -90 | Begin acceptance review |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | End acceptance review, begin environmental review |
| N/A | 45 | 75 | Issue NOI for SEIS/EIS and scoping |
| 60 | 75 | 90 | Site visit |
| - | - | 90 | Public scoping meeting(s) |
| 150 | 165 | 165 | Issue environmental RAIs |
| 270* | 300 | 360 | Issue draft NEPA document for public comment |
| 300* | 360 | 435 | End public comment period |
| 365 | 435 | 555 | Issue final NEPA document |
| N/A | 465 | 585 | Agency final decision |

* If requested

Current Projects Under Review

- Moore Ranch, Nichols Ranch, Lost Creek
 - Environmental RAIs issued in March 2009
 - Draft SEIS expected to be issued Winter 2009
 - Final SEIS expected to be issued Spring 2010
- JAB and Antelope

Status of WY UR Applications

| Company | Site | Type | Estimated App. Date |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Lost Creek ISR, LLC | Lost Creek | ISL - New | Rec 03/08, Acc 06/08 |
| Uranerz Energy Corp. | Nichols Ranch | ISL - New | Rec 11/07, Acc 04/08 |
| Uranium One | Moore Ranch | ISL - New | Rec 10/07, Acc 12/07 |
| Uranium One | Jab and Antelope | ISL - New | Rec 9/08, Acc 05/09 |
| Uranium One | Ludeman | ISL - New | 05/09 |
| Lost Creek ISR, LLC | Lost Creek | ISL - Expansion | 11/09 |
| UR-Energy Corp. | Lost Soldier | ISL - Expansion | 11/09 |
| Uranium One | Allemand-Ross | ISL - Expansion | 12/09 |
| Cameco | Smith Ranch/Highland | ISL - Expansion | TBD |
| Strathmore Minerals | Reno Creek | ISL - New | 03/11 |
| Wildhorse Energy | West Alkali Creek | ISL - New | 12/10 |
| Wildhorse Energy | Sweetwater | ISL and Conv. - New | 05/11 |
| Cameco | Ruby Ranch | ISL - Expansion | 10/11 |
| Strathmore Minerals | Gas Hills | Conv. - New | 10/11 |

Status of Draft MOU with BLM

- Final revisions submitted by NRC to BLM HQ May XX
- MOU (to be) finalized XXX XX
- Principle purposes of MOU:
 - Encourage routine communication
 - Provide a framework for exchange of data
 - Establish roles and responsibilities
 - Provide an efficient means of fulfilling NEPA requirements

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- Environmental review of Jab and Antelope application

Open Discussion

- Overlaps in each agency's review
- Touch points in schedule for interagency communication
- Timing of document sharing and comment review
- Agency points of contact